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COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 23 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by 16 heads of State or Government in support of global cooperation, issued in New York on 23 October 1995.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 29.

(Signed) Peter OSVALD
Permanent Representative

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Annex

STATEMENT BY 16 HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT
IN SUPPORT OF GLOBAL COOPERATION

We, the Heads of State or Government of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Sweden, gathered together in New York on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in order to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to global multilateral cooperation. We join together in making the following statement.

1. The world is reminded daily of human misery deriving from new threats to security and from growing economic, demographic, environmental and social imbalances. Global cooperation is critical to the survival of humankind. We must invest now in our future to prevent disasters tomorrow. If we fail to act speedily and boldly now, we will have to pay the price of new miseries, and so will future generations.

2. On 24 October 1995, we mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and join in commemorating the United Nations and its Charter. But celebrations will be meaningless unless nations use the occasion for a new commitment to the renewal and adaptation of the global multilateral system. We represent small and large countries from all continents, with different faiths, cultural heritage and traditions, and with different economic levels and social structures. Our experiences have led us to the same conclusion: a strong commitment to global cooperation in the service of peace and progress. We reject unilateralist approaches to global problems.

3. For 50 years, the United Nations has been the international community's most important collective instrument for the maintenance of peace and security, and for the promotion of justice, equity and development. Yet the international community needs to go much further to meet people's needs and aspirations, and to change and adapt the Organization to meet new challenges and take advantage of new opportunities available. But the United Nations cannot do more than what its Member States allow it to do. Nations need now to make use of the great potential of the United Nations to infuse it with a new ethos, a new strength and a new sense of direction.

4. We welcome the new world-wide trend towards regional cooperation. Open regionalism can become a supporting instrument for global cooperation, but it cannot replace it. The United Nations should become an arena of effective cooperation among all the people that make up our global civilization.

5. We believe that the potential of today's global civilization can only be realized with a new understanding of its multicultural and multipolar character. Cooperation must be based on truly equal partnership. We have to address the root causes of human miseries. A culture of social solidarity must prevail over alienation and resort to violence and terrorism. We must focus on the needs of the most vulnerable. We want to prevent conflict and promote political and

economic equality between people and nations. We are all committed to the principles of democracy and respect for the pluralism of the world community.

6. We underline the importance of the United Nations system, particularly in the following four critical areas:

(a) The capacity of the United Nations to prevent conflicts and bring security must be greatly increased. The United Nations must be able to anticipate and prevent crises, respond more rapidly to outbreaks of violence and efficiently manage and resolve crises when they occur;

(b) The multilateral economic system must be reformed and the partnership of the United Nations with other relevant institutions strengthened to facilitate beneficial participation by all countries in the global economy. This is essential to the achievement of greater economic growth and integration, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequality. The roles and mandates of United Nations bodies in the economic and social fields need to be re-examined and strengthened;

(c) The United Nations should work for a democratic world, where people can determine their future and where human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected. The United Nations should work to foster the development of and respect for international law;

(d) The United Nations as an Organization must become more efficient, effective and representative. Adequate financial resources should be made available. All countries must pay their assessed contributions in full and on time.

7. The fiftieth anniversary offers a unique opportunity. This moment must not be lost. Already, processes of reform have been initiated within the United Nations system, in particular by the Member States in the General Assembly and by the Secretary-General. Recent major United Nations conferences have greatly advanced world-wide consensus on what needs to be done and set a very full agenda. Constructive independent proposals have also been put forward outside the United Nations system. The success of all these efforts will be judged by how far they meet the demands in the areas we have set out above.

8. We will lend our political weight to achieve early, concrete results in the effort to adapt and strengthen the United Nations system. We want to generate broad support for an improved global multilateral system, based upon a renewed political will of all Member States, and which draws on the energies and the commitment of independent organizations of civil society. We will take an active part in the discussions to find ways and means to catalyse the reform process. We will continue to consult with one another, and with other members of the United Nations, to see how far it may be possible to set an agreed framework and a timetable to achieve the necessary changes.